



For Immediate Release: March 31, 2016

**Stray Puppies Lead Animal Services Officer to Mother Dog Found Suffering from Starvation;
Owner Charged with Cruelty**

On March 14, 2016, a Montgomery County Animal Services Division Officer responded to a call in the 9000 block of Broadwater Drive in Gaithersburg for the report of two young puppies running loose. The officer was able to determine where the puppies resided. Upon arrival at the residence, he found the mother dog, an emaciated Catahoula mix named Princess, in dire conditions.

Princess was severely underweight with her ribs clearly visible. She was without food or shelter, and had only a small container of dirty, stagnant water. The puppies however appeared to be in decent condition.

The officer confiscated the dogs, who were brought to the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC). There they received an initial veterinary exam. Princess weighed only 29 pounds – much less than is normal for a dog of her size. A healthy weight would likely be around 55 to 60 pounds. Princess was nervous and somewhat fearful, but ate readily. The examination determined that Princess was underweight, not due to disease or illness, but because she had not been given sufficient, nutritious food.

The owner, Allyn Tyrone Meeks, was charged with one misdemeanor count for failure to provide veterinary care, shelter, and sufficient, nutritious food. The charge comes with a penalty of up to 90 days in jail or a \$1,000 fine.

In the short time under MCASAC care, Princess gained over 12 pounds and is well on her way to reaching a healthy weight. Despite the cruelty she experienced, Princess has opened up and is trusting new people. She can be seen in the veterinary office wagging her tail hopefully as staff pass by, and leaning up against people who come to visit her.

Princess and her puppies, Calvin and Jordan, are now available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center. Anyone interested in learning more about the adoption process should call the MCASAC at 240-773-5900.

About the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center:

The Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC), operated by the Department of Police, Animal Services Division, provides high-standard sheltering and care to the homeless, abused, and neglected animals in our community and ensures the safety and welfare of the county's citizens. We are the County's only open-admission, municipal shelter. Through adoptions, education, outreach, and more, MCASAC serves as a critical community resource to promote and advocate for responsible pet care. Animal Services Officers are on duty seven days a week to investigate citizen complaints and respond to animal emergencies 24 hours a day. For more information, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/asd

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